

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-46 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1, 20, and 38 are independent claims; the other claims are dependent claims. Claims 1-46 have been objected to in view of certain alleged informalities, and the Office has indicated the claims would be allowable if amended to overcome the objections.

Independent Claims 1, 20, and 38 have been rewritten to address the informalities raised in the outstanding Office Action. These amendments are not in acquiescence of the Examiner's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution; it should also be noted Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by these amendments. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 20 and 38 are thus allowable. By virtue of dependence from Claims 1, 20, and 38, it is thus also submitted that Claims 2-19, 21-37 and 39-46 are also allowable at this juncture.

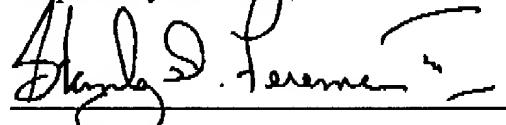
The outstanding Office Action acknowledged the claim for priority and indicated the certified copy of the priority document had not been received. Applicants wish to

Atty. Docket No. CH9-2000-0003US1
(590.058)

draw the Examiner's attention to the fact that the certified copy of the priority document was filed with the Office on June 16, 2004.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-46, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Stanley D. Ference III
Registration No. 33,879

Customer No. 35195
FERENCE & ASSOCIATES
400 Broad Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15143
(412) 741-8400
(412) 741-9292 - Facsimile

Attorneys for Applicants